

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Attendees, Date and Type of Interview

The interview was conducted over the telephone on December 4, 2008 and was attended by Examiner Matthew F. Desanto and Daniel E. Altman.

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

The following documents were submitted to the Examiner by facsimile in preparation for the telephonic interview:

1. A graph converting the sandpaper count to Ra values from the Farfan article which was previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement dated May 15, 2008.
2. An article from the website:
http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/publications/publications.htm?SEQ_NO_115=219013, showing that deli meats and cheeses can have their roughness measured in sandpaper counts, which is submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith.

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 12, and 13

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

U.S. Patent No. 5,407,431 to Botich et. al.

Results of Interview

The Examiner and the undersigned discussed the two documents listed above. The undersigned explained to the Examiner how sandpaper count can be used as a measure of surface roughness and does not require any specific type of roughness. The Examiner and the undersigned further discussed how the prior art does not read on the Applicants' claimed invention. The attendees also discussed amendments to the claims which are reflected in the above listing of the claims and the remarks below. The undersigned indicated that unexpected results in the form of unexpected resistance to breakage were obtained when the recited random roughness was employed and that these unexpected results were strong evidence of non-obviousness. The Examiner agreed to reconsider the prior art rejections based on the submission of a response.